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Committee for Programme and Coordination
Forty-fourth session
7 June-2 July 2004
Agenda item 8
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-fourth session

Rapporteur: Mr. Hitoshi **Kozaki** (Japan)

Draft report

Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007

Part two: biennial programme plan

(Item 3(b))

Programme 12
Human settlements

1. At its 16th meeting, on 18 June 2004, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 12, Human settlements, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/59/6 (Prog. 12)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced programme 12, informing the Committee that the substance remained essentially the same as the 2002-2005 medium-term plan, as revised, with minor adjustments to the objectives of subprogrammes 2, 3 and 4 in order to reflect new mandates, the most important of which derived from the United Nations Millennium Declaration. The representative also responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for Programme 12 and the work programme was commended. The contribution of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) in drawing global attention to the ills of homelessness,

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a condition that afflicts all societies, rich and poor alike, was applauded. Support for the work of UN-HABITAT in fighting urban poverty, as well as the two campaigns on secure tenure and good governance, was expressed.

4. The view was expressed that, as in other programmes, the links between programme 12 and other organizations were not included. The view was expressed that UN-HABITAT should continue its effort to avoid duplication of activities through the consolidation of changes and the identification of programme priorities. Concern was expressed that the World Urban Forum, an important event in UN-HABITAT's calendar, had not been included in the biennial programme plan.

5. Concern was expressed about whether the continuing deterioration of shelter and human settlements would be addressed, especially the unrelenting challenges of inadequate housing, unemployment, poor sanitary conditions and infrastructure, which demanded a more coordinated and effective response to confront the phenomenon of slums and achieve the goal of significantly improving the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020. Support was expressed for the efforts of UN-HABITAT to support information exchange and partnerships among developing partners dealing with the challenges posed by slums.

6. As with other programmes reviewed, concern was expressed as to how the indicators of achievement would be measured. The indicator of achievement (b) (iii) under subprogramme 2, Monitoring the Habitat Agenda, was seen as important and necessary; hence the view was expressed that it should blend with subprogramme 3 and contribute to the objective of strengthening the formulation and implementation of policies, strategies, programmes and the development of capacities at the national and local levels on a regional basis.

7. The involvement of the United Nations Human Settlements Foundation in mobilizing resources and promoting partnerships for improving human settlements for poor and low-income people was saluted, while concern was expressed on more stable funding for the programme.

8. Appreciation was expressed about information exchanges and partnerships among development partners, including the involvement of the private sector to build capacity, create employment and upgrade slum activities, which was also seen as essential for slum-upgrading activities.

Conclusions and recommendations

9. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 12, Human settlements, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 12.4, final sentence

At the end of the sentence, add the words "including the following programmes and agencies, within their respective mandates: the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Commission for Latin America

the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Office for Project Services, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the World Bank, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the Global Environment Facility, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs".